

STATE OF MAINE.

BY

WILLIAM KING, A PROCLAMATION.

WHEREAS it is the duty of rational beings to acknowledge the wisdom of the Creator, and the beneficence of his providence; it is therefore not less the dictate of reason than piety to worship that Supreme Power and perfect goodness, which ordains in wisdom the diversified conditions of men. Yet more emphatically is it the duty of a people, in whose condition, like that of the citizens of this State, a benevolent Providence has been pleased to grant so many favors, with so few of the evils, which usually fall to the lot of men, publicly and unitedly to acknowledge, by every expression of grateful veneration, the mercies of that Being, who has distinguished them by such peculiar and signal favors.

I THEREFORE, WILLIAM KING, by the advice of the Council, and in conformity with the usage of our ancestors, who have left us so many examples of moral wisdom and rational piety, do appoint THURSDAY, *the thirtieth day of November next*, to be observed by the good citizens of this State, as a day of **THANKSGIVING AND PRAISE**; and I do exhort them to assemble in their respective places of public worship, and to unite in devout ascriptions of praise to that Providence, which has signalised them by so many favors;—That we are blessed with a system of government, founded on the natural rights of men, and wisely adapted to maintain the peace and order of society, to preserve our liberties, to promote the general happiness, and to diffuse the advantages of education and useful knowledge among all ranks of people:

That with the inestimable blessings of a pure and holy faith, we enjoy the advantages of religious freedom and universal toleration; and while the various religious sects divide from each other in their speculations on abstruse points of theology, uncontrolled by any power but that to which they all owe obedience, all may unite under the great moral precepts of religion, in the harmony of christian love:

That while we see other nations involved in alarming confusions, and divided into acrimonious factions by the domestic dissensions of their rulers, or struggling with generous devotion to repair the mischiefs of a long period of hereditary misrule, or reclaiming with violence the rights, which had been by violence usurped, and laying the foundation of civil liberty and national prosperity in the tears and blood of the brave and good, we behold in this country a people prosperous in their industry and happy under rulers of their own choice, and laws of their own making, and in the midst of present tranquillity gladdened with the prospect of a lengthened period of happiness and repose:

That while other nations, and some of our sister states, have been during the present year visited with distressing and desolating sickness, to the people of this State, it has been a season of general health:

That the treasures of the great deep have rewarded the diligence of our fishermen; That commerce, left free to the enterprise of our merchants, and wisely regulated as it relates to foreign nations, has been prosecuted with increasing success; and that the labors of the husbandman have, by a fruitful and salubrious season, been crowned with plenty.

And while our grateful recollections dwell on the undeserved mercies which we have received, may we not forget that all human virtue, like all human happiness, is imperfect; may we humble ourselves before the perfections of that Being, whom we have so often offended, and with praises for his manifold kindness, join our fervent supplications that we may in future so live as to be more worthy of his favor; and that by uniting to the virtues of good citizens, the christian graces of meekness, faith and charity, the people of this State may continue to bring down on themselves the blessings of that Providence, which has hitherto distinguished them among the nations of the world by such peculiar mercies.

Given at the Council Chamber, at Portland, this second day of September, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and twenty, and in the forty fifth year of the Independence of the United States of America.

WILLIAM KING.

BY THE GOVERNOR.

ASHUR WARE,

Secretary of State.